

**From:** Allen Wetherelt [allen@rangetel.coop]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 26, 2012 4:51 PM  
**To:** 'wallace@cheyennenation.com'  
**Cc:** 'Rob Stephens'; 'Allen Wetherelt (allen.wetherelt@rangetel.coop)'  
**Subject:** meeting with tribe  
**Attachments:** FCC Tribal Letter.pdf; Range Tribal Letter.pdf; Tribal agenda meeting.pdf

**Importance:** High

To whom it may concern;

Range Telephone would like to schedule a meeting with the Tribal President Leroy Spang and Vice President Joe Fox Jr. Attached is the form letter off of your website "Request to schedule an appointment with the tribal administration staff" and a "FCC Notice" and a letter from Range Telephone requesting a meeting to address the issues and topics contained in the FCC notice as well as reconstruction of the burned telecommunication systems on the reservation and the possible purchase of the Lame Deer cable TV system.

Thanks, Allen Wetherelt

Operations Manager

Range Telephone Coop. Inc.

4063472843

4063511022

[allen@rangetel.coop](mailto:allen@rangetel.coop)

**From:** Wallace [wallace@cheyennenation.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2012 8:15 AM  
**To:** allen@rangetel.coop  
**Subject:** Read: meeting with tribe  
**Attachments:** att26500.txt

**Importance:** High

Your message

To: 'wallace@cheyennenation.com'  
Cc: 'Rob Stephens'; 'Allen Wetherelt' ([allen.wetherelt@rangetel.coop](mailto:allen.wetherelt@rangetel.coop))  
Subject: meeting with tribe  
Sent: 9/26/2012 4:51 PM

was read on 9/27/2012 8:14 AM.



# Employee Travel Information Form

NAME of person(s) traveling: Rob Stephens, Allen Wetherelt

REASON for travel: Montana Broadband Tribal Summit

DATE October 29 – 30, 2012 CITY Great Falls, MT

MEETING LOCATION: Holiday Inn

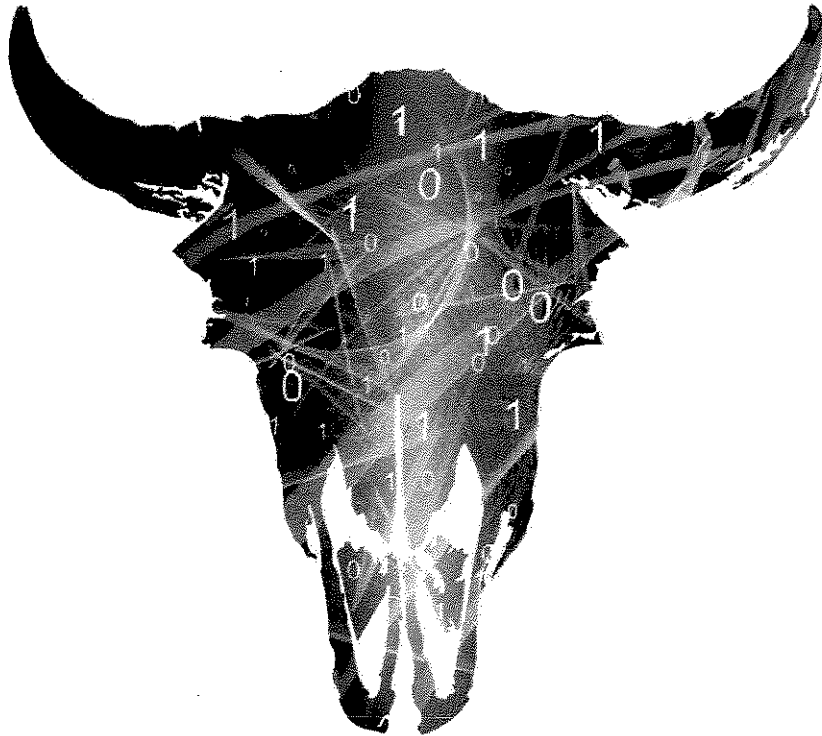
<b>HOTEL RESERVATIONS</b>		<b>Holiday Inn</b>	
Address	<u>400 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. South</u>	Phone No.	<u>406-727-7200</u>
Arriving	<u>Mon., October 29<sup>th</sup></u>	Departing	<u>Tues., Oct. 30<sup>th</sup></u>
Room Rate	<u>\$77 plus tax</u>	Confirmation #	<u>64936106</u>

**OTHER COMMENTS** The Holiday Inn is located in the center of Great Falls and next to  
Bison Ford. Both rooms have been reserved under Rob's name and guaranteed in case of late  
arrival. When you check-in, you can use your individual credit cards unless Rob wants to pay  
for both rooms. Since both of you are Priority Club members, make sure that they enter your  
Priority Club account numbers when you check in – 325528106 (Rob) and 516889085 (Allen).

Have a Safe Trip ~

*M. Wetherelt*

Montana Broadband Tribal Summit  
October 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> Great Falls, Montana



© Assiniboine/Nakota © Blackfeet /Niitsitapi (Pikuni) ©  
© Chippewa (Ojibway)/Annishinabe © Plains Cree/Neiyahwahk ©  
© Crow/Apsaalooke © Gros Ventres/A'aninin © Kootenai/Ktunaxa ©  
© Little Shell/Annishinabe &Metis ©  
© Northern Cheyenne/Tsetsehesestahase/So'taahe ©  
© Pend D' Oreille /Qiiispe © Salish /Selish © Sioux /Dakota, Lakota ©



# Montana Broadband Program Tribal Summit

Great Falls, Montana   Holiday Inn   400 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. south   October 29 & 30

## Monday October 29th

- 5 pm            Registration
- 6 pm-8 pm     Reception & exhibits open
- 7 pm            Keynote address Traci Morris *Homahota Consulting* – “*Bridging the Digital Divide: The Importance of Digital Inclusion for Indian Country*”

## Tuesday October 30

- 7:30 am        Breakfast
- 8:00 am        Ceremonial Opening
- 8:30 am        Welcome by Lesa Evers - *State Director of Indian Affairs*
- 8:45 am        Overview of Broadband Program – Quinn Ness – *Bureau Chief – Public Safety Services Bureau*
- 9:00 am        Loris Taylor – *CEO, Native Public Media* - “Data is the Raw Material for Information Age”
- 10:00 am       Broadband Stakeholder Perspectives
- 11:00 am       Exhibitor Break (Coffee, beverages ...)
- 11:20 am       Cultural Perspectives (Vernon Finley- CSKT)
- 12:00 pm       Lunch & Keynote Speaker – Valerie Fast Horse – *Information Technology Director, Coeur d’Alene Tribe*
- 1:15 pm        Moderated Discussion with Attendees
- 2:00 pm        Award door prizes & dismiss

# MONTANA BROADBAND 2012 TRIBAL SUMMIT

The Montana Broadband Program, in the Department of Administration, State of Montana, in partnership with the Federal Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is engaged in a range of efforts to increase broadband (high-speed internet) access and adoption in Montana. As part of this effort, the Montana Broadband Program will be providing a one day summit to introduce the program to Montana Tribes and provide a brief overview of the program and its goals.

Keynote speakers at the summit will provide insight into the importance of high-speed internet access and what it means to reservation communities. Tribes from each of the reservations, and the Little Shell Tribe, have been invited. The one day summit will provide an outline of the upcoming opportunities to further the discussions of broadband (high-speed internet) and its availability and access on the reservations in Montana.

The Montana Broadband Program would like to extend an invitation to you to attend fall 2012 Broadband Tribal Summit. The summit is an opportunity to learn about national and state initiatives regarding improving broadband access and developing broadband applications on tribal reservations.

Contact the Montana Broadband Program to register today. For official registration please RSVP **by October 25<sup>th</sup>**. Registration for the summit is complementary, but please contact the Montana Broadband Program by October 25<sup>th</sup> so there is an accurate count for meals.

Montana Broadband Program  
State Information Technology Service Division  
Trudy Skari  
406-444-2601 or 1-877-448-6277  
[tskari@mt.gov](mailto:tskari@mt.gov)



The summit offers the opportunity to hear from three of the nation's leading experts on broadband access, adoption and implementation of digital inclusion.

- **Tracy Morris:** Chickasaw Nation; Author of New Media, Technology and Internet use in Indian Country: Quantitative and Qualitative Analyses
- **Loris Taylor:** Hopi Nation; President and CEO of Native Public Media, Ms. Taylor has been on the cutting edge of representing media interests in Indian country from radio to new technologies.
- **Valerie Fast Horse:** Coeur D'Alene Tribe, is director of Information Technology services for the Coeur d'Alene Reservation. Valerie is the creator of RezKast.Com

## Montana Broadband Program 2012 Tribal Broadband Summit

**Location:** Holiday Inn  
Great Falls, MT

**Date:** Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012

### Agenda:

#### October 29

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm Registration  
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Reception  
7:00 pm – Keynote Traci Morris, Homahota Consulting

#### Oct. 30

7:30 am Breakfast & Exhibits  
8:00 am Opening Ceremony & Welcome  
8:30 am Lesa Evers – State Director of Indian Affairs  
9:00 am Loris Taylor, CEO Native Public Media  
9:45 am Stakeholder Panel  
10:45 am Break in Exhibit Area  
11:00 am Cultural Perspectives  
12:00 pm Lunch – Keynote Valerie Fast Horse  
IT Director Coeur d'Alene Tribe  
1:00 pm Moderated Discussion with Attendees  
2:00 pm Conference Closes

<http://www.broadband.gov>

# Broadband Resources

Montana Broadband Planning Program

October, 2012

## AGENCIES

- Federal Communications Commission Office of Native Affairs and Policy - was created to promote the deployment and adoption of communications services and technology.

<http://transition.fcc.gov/indians/>

- Montana Broadband Program – Access the interactive broadband map, broadband speed test, video, upcoming events and other resources.

<http://www.broadband.mt.gov/>

- National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA)

Home page - <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/>

- NTIA – National Broadband Map

<http://www.broadbandmap.gov/>

- NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP) and State Broadband Data and Development Program (SBDD)

<http://www2.ntia.doc.gov/>

- Federal Communications Commission – National Broadband Plan

<http://www.broadband.gov/>

- Federal Communications Commission – Broadband Initiatives

<http://www.fcc.gov/broadband>

- Montana State Library – BTOP Program Information

<http://msl.mt.gov/btop/>

- Office of Indian Energy and Economic development

<http://www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/AS-IA/IEED/index.htm>

## FUNDING RESOURCES

### 1. Federal Funding Sources

- USDA – Rural Utilities Service (RUS) - Broadband Funding Programs  
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/RUSTelecomPrograms.html>
  - Recovery Act Broadband Initiatives Program
  - Community Connect Grant Program
  - Farm Bill Broadband Loan Program
  - Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program
  - Telecommunications Infrastructure Loan Program
  - Expansion of 911 Access Loan Program
- USDA – Rural Development Program – Rural Business Enterprise Grants  
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/busp/rbeg.htm>
- U.S. Department of Commerce – NTIA-Broadband Technologies Opportunity Program Note: The program is not accepting funding requests at this time. To monitor past grants:  
<http://www2.ntia.doc.gov/awards>
- U.S. Department of Education – Office of Educational Technology – Grants & Programs  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oe/technology/edgrants.html>
  - Enhancing Education Through Technology
  - Technology & Media Services
  - Assistive Technology
  - Ready to Teach
  - Ready to Learn
  - Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR)
- U.S. Department of Health & Human Services – Telehealth Grant Programs  
<http://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/about/telehealth/>
- Universal Service Administrative Company - Universal Service Fund (USF)  
<http://www.usac.org/hc/#>
  - USF for High Cost Areas
  - USF for Low-Income Customers
  - USF Schools and Libraries Program (E-Rate)
  - Rural Health Care Program



- Other agencies have grants and programs to promote their primary mission but may have a broadband component.
  - U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development – Broadband for public housing  
<http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/topics/grants>
  - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - Telehealth projects to promote public health.  
[www.cdc.gov/od/pgo/funding/grants/grantmain.shtml](http://www.cdc.gov/od/pgo/funding/grants/grantmain.shtml)
  - National Science Foundation – Research and Development funds for new technology.  
<http://www.nsf.gov/funding/>
  - Institute of Museum and Library Services – Grants for Digital Tools & Collections  
<http://www.imls.gov/applicants/project.aspx>

## 2. State & Local Funding Sources

- Montana Department of Commerce has a number of programs that can be used for planning purposes, economic development, small business development, and training. Broadband related businesses may be able to use these programs to grow their business or train employees. Communities may be able to access planning and infrastructure funds to promote investment in broadband infrastructure.  
<http://businessresources.mt.gov/default.mcpix>
  - Montana State Small Business Credit Initiative Program
  - Office of Trade and International Relations
  - Montana Board of Research and Commercialization Technology
  - Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund Program
  - Community Development Block Grant
  - Indian Country Economic Development Program
  - Montana Technology Innovation Partnership
  - MicroBusiness Finance Program
  - Primary Sector Workforce Training Grant Program
  - SBIR/STTR Matching Funds Program
  - Montana Indian Equity Fund Montana Entrepreneur Development Program
- Local Government Debt Financing – Local governments can make use of various kinds of debt financing to fund investment in infrastructure. This could include broadband infrastructure such as installing conduit as part of road construction or financing fiber-to-the-premise for industrial parks. Debt financing mechanisms include general obligation bonds, special improvement district bonds and revenue bonds as well as Tax Increment Financing Bonds. Debt financing enables local governments to finance major infrastructure projects using future revenue from special assessments, user fees, and other forms of revenue.

## 3. Other Grant Resources

- Montana State University Extension – Foundation Grants for Communities  
<http://www.msuextension.org/CommRes/grantopps.asp>

- Gates Foundation – Internet Access & Libraries  
<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/united-states-libraries/Pages/overview.aspx>
- MacArthur Foundation – Digital Literacy  
[http://digitalllearning.macfound.org/site/c.enJLKONIFiG/b.2029199/k.94AC/Latest\\_News.htm](http://digitalllearning.macfound.org/site/c.enJLKONIFiG/b.2029199/k.94AC/Latest_News.htm)

## BROADBAND APPLICATIONS

- NTIA Digital Literacy Resources  
<http://www.digitalliteracy.gov/>
- E-Government Applications  
[www.apps.gov](http://www.apps.gov)
- Digital Cities Awards,  
[www.digitalcommunities.com](http://www.digitalcommunities.com)
- Broadband Adoption Research Papers,  
<http://www.linkidaho.org/lid/default.aspx?page=29&bhcp=1>
- Broadband Communities Magazine  
<http://www.bbpmag.com/>
- IBM Smarter Planet  
<http://www.ibm.com/smarterplanet/us/en/index.html?re=sph>
- Telework  
<http://www.telework.gov/>  
<http://www.teleworkresearchnetwork.com/>

## SPEAKER WEBSITES

Native Public Media - <http://nativepublicmedia.org/>

<http://www.rezkast.com/>

[http://oti.newamerica.net/publications/policy/new\\_media\\_technology\\_and\\_internet\\_use\\_in\\_indian\\_country](http://oti.newamerica.net/publications/policy/new_media_technology_and_internet_use_in_indian_country)

## MONTANA PROJECTS & RESOURCES

- Montana Telecommunications Association  
<http://www.telecomassn.org/>
- Montana Independent Telecom Systems  
<http://www.mistel.com/>
- Montana Associated Technology Roundtables  
<http://www.matr.net/>
- Eastern Montana Telemedicine Network  
<http://www.emtn.org/>
- REACH – Central Montana Telehealth Network  
<http://www.reach-montana.org/>
- Montana Health Network  
<http://www.montanahealthnetwork.com/>
- Montana Digital Academy – On-line Learning  
<http://montanadigitalacademy.org/>
- VisionNet – Video-Conferencing & Network Provider  
<http://www.vision.net/>

## BROADBAND TOOLKITS

Knight Foundation: <http://www.infotoolkit.org/>

National E-Commerce Extension Initiative: <http://srdc.msstate.edu/ecommerce/index.html>

<http://www.connectingcommunities.info/>

Minnesota/Blandin: <http://broadband.blandinfoundation.org/toolkit/>

Virginia: <http://www.otpba.vi.virginia.gov/broadband.shtml>

California: <http://cetfund.org/>, <http://empowernetcalifornia.org/about-us>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civic engagement through surveys, social networking</li> <li>• Access to maps and other data for planning purposes</li> <li>• Remote monitoring of water and sewer treatment facilities</li> <li>• On-line ticketing to events</li> </ul>
<b>Public Safety</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved communication between first responders and emergency rooms</li> <li>• Access to police records from patrol vehicles</li> <li>• Wireless access in fire trucks allow firefighters to access info regarding potential hazardous materials, building plans ... and improves safety</li> <li>• Social networking and texting have potential for early warning system</li> <li>• Use of social networking to coordinate response in disaster situations</li> <li>• Remote monitoring of sites for safety concerns (i.e. oil &amp; gas fields ...)</li> </ul>
<b>Citizens</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wider range of entertainment options</li> <li>• Stay in touch with family members thru social networking, Skype, ...</li> <li>• Better access to employment information and job services</li> <li>• Rural areas have access to on-line shopping to get items not available at local merchants</li> <li>• Access to on-line services for filing taxes and Medicare enrollment</li> <li>• On-line work-force development</li> </ul>
<b>General</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cloud computing offers cost efficiencies</li> <li>• Webinars and video conferencing allow virtual meetings and saves on travel costs</li> <li>• Use of Skype for interviewing employees &amp; communicating with family</li> <li>• Use of VOIP to save costs</li> <li>• Remote tech support allows IT staff virtual access to computers and eliminates need for site visit</li> <li>• Smart Grid technologies save on energy costs</li> <li>• On-Line professional training</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Language classes conducted in real time with interactive students &amp; teachers</li> <li>• Cultural events streamed in real time to elder homes and disabled individuals</li> <li>• Indian Education For All class instruction and interaction with Tribes and the public schools.</li> <li>• Monitoring of cultural resources for protection and controlled access</li> <li>• Outdoor camps and traditional skills class brought into the class room around the reservation.</li> </ul>
<b>Agriculture</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Control irrigation systems with mobile apps and conserve water</li> <li>• Real-time access to soil and climate conditions to make automatic adjustments in planting and fertilizing that saves money</li> <li>• Automated steering of tractors for more efficient plantings</li> <li>• Remote sensors that track livestock and provide real-time data on weight, feed,</li> <li>• Instant access to commodity price and other market info while in the field</li> <li>• Business applications and ability to market products on the web</li> </ul>

October 31, 2012

file name: tribalengagementgreatfalls

#### Montana Broadband 2012 Tribal Summit

Allen Wetherelt, Operations Manager, and Robin Stephens, CEO, of Range Telephone attended the Broadband Tribal Summit on October 29 and October 30, 2012 in Great Falls, MT. We drove to the meeting 560 round trip.

It was fairly informative, but the folks we wanted to see—the Tribal representatives from the Northern Cheyenne Tribe and the Crow Tribe did not attend the meeting.

Attached are an agenda and some notes taken at the meeting. Traci Morris was the keynote speaker and she did a fine job of explaining what we were going to talk about on Tuesday and gave some excellent examples of successes with broadband on some reservation.

Lesa Evers from State of Montana Native American Affairs for Governor Schweitzer of Montana was the first presenter on Tuesday morning.

The theme of the meeting really focused on the poor service, lack of service, etc. of broadband on the state's reservations.

We also need to develop a good working relationship with the tribal councils. We have tried to set up a meeting with the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council and the Crow Reservation Tribal Council but we have been unsuccessful in getting that done. We have called them, faxed them, sent them back completed forms saying we wanted to be on their agendas at their next meeting, but haven't received a response to date.

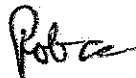
We realize they need high speed broadband on the reservation. We hoped they would talk about right of way issues but that was never mentioned.

Making the broadband accessible and affordable was important to them.

Valerie Fast Horse did a very nice job on her presentation about what she has accomplished on the Coeur d'Alene Tribe with respect to broadband usages.

The next meeting date hasn't been set but we will be in attendance when it is.

Robin Stephens



CEO—Range Telephone Cooperative, Inc.